(d) if not, the facts thereof;

(e) the total number of coal blocks allocated to Coal India Limited in 2008 and the quantum of coal reserves of these blocks; and

(f) whether Coal India Limited has decided to import coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) In 2004, no mine has been allocated to Coal India Limited. However, in 2004, Coal India Limited had 92.5 billion tonnes of coal resources in blocks and existing mines.

(c) and (d) Government has so far allocated 193 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 41.81 billion tonnes. Out of the total blocks allocated, mining lease in respect of one block has been declared void and three blocks have been deallocated.

(e) Coal India Limited has not been allocated any coal block during 2008. However, Coal India Limited had carved out new coal blocks from the balance regionally explored areas. Out of the newly carved blocks and earlier identified non-CIL blocks, Coal India Limited has sought to retain 138 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 57.57 billion tonnes for increasing coal production during the XII Plan and beyond to meet the rising demand for coal.

(f) Coal India Limited is entrusted with the responsibility of meeting the full requirement of coal by resorting to imports, if necessary.

Coal-to-Oil Projects

632. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether to meet the persistent energy crisis Government proposes to allot coal acreages to private players setting up Coal-to-Oil Projects;

(b) whether private players have evinced interest in setting up such Coal-to-Liquid projects with technical collaboration from Norwegian, German and South African companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) The Government has invited applications from public and private sector companies for allocation of coal blocks for Coal to Liquid project.

(b) and (c) In response to the advertisement, 28 applications were received from 22 applicants. The technical collaborations proposed by the applicants is with foreign companies such as Rentech Inc., Syntroleum Corporation from the United States of America, Siemens, CHOREN Exports, Unde, Lurgi from Germany, and Sasol Syntroleum International Pvt. Ltd. from South Africa.

Open coal mines in Chhindwada district

633. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consent has been given to start an open coal mine at Badkuhi village under Parashia Teshil of Chhindwada district;

(b) if so, when the consent was given and the financial provisions made in this regard;

(c) the time by when the production would start from this mine and the target regarding quantum of production fixed in this regard; and

(d) the arrangement being made for manpower to operate the mines, whether new recruitment will be made and whether preference would be given to the residents of the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) No, Sir. However, there is an opencast mine called Barkuhi opencast mine already operating at Eklehara village of Parasia Tehsil situated at a distance of 4.5 Km. from Barkuhi village.

(b) and (c) The Barkuhi opencast mine is already in operation since 2004-05. Barkuhi opencast mine (Phase-II) (situated in Eklehara village) has been approved in March 2008 with hiring of equipments for a capital investment of Rs. 104.00 lakhs. Mine has produced 1,53,300 tonnes in 2007-08 and is expected to produce 65,000 tonnes in 2008-09.

(d) The Barkuhi opencast mine (situated in Eklehara village) is operating in already acquired land of Western Coalfields Limited, hence, no new recruitment will be made.

Telephone connections in Rajasthan

634. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Rajasthan, which are not having telephone facility/connectivity;

(b) the details of the waiting list of the applicants for the various services of BSNL such as Mobile, WLL, Landline, etc. in Rajasthan;

(c) whether Government has formulated any time-bound programme to provide district-wise telephone connections to its waitlisted subscribers;

(d) if so, by when these waitlisted subscribers would be provided telephone connections; and

(e) the time taken on an average by the BSNL to provide telephone connections to its subscribers in the years 2005,2006 and 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Sir, 5,408 villages are not having telephone facility / connectivity out of 39,753 villages in Rajasthan as on 30.9.08.

(b) Details of wait listed applicants for BSNL telephone facility as on 30.9.08 in Rajasthan are given below:

For Wireline / WLL Telephone connections	:	1,969
For GSM Mobile Telephone Connections	:	Nil
TOTAL :	:	1,969